



YONCALLA HIGH SCHOOL

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July 30, 2026

Hello Yoncalla Middle and High School students and families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! I hope you had a wonderful summer. We are excited to welcome everyone back to school. Our custodial and maintenance teams have been working hard all summer to get the building ready for students. We can't wait to see everyone when school starts on **Monday, August 24**.

This year, we are excited to welcome two new staff members to our school. Please help us give them a warm Yoncalla welcome!

- **Mrs. Nicole Thompson** is our new Middle/High School Office Manager and Registrar.
- **Mrs. Raina Rausch** is our new Middle/High School Special Education Teacher

School Policy Updates

We have a few important policy updates to share before school begins.

1. **Energy Drinks and Other High-Caffeine Drinks (Grades K-8)**

- Last year, we saw a large increase in middle and high school students bringing energy drinks and other high-caffeine beverages to school. At the request of our Advisory Council, a survey was sent to all MS/HS families in November 2025, and **78% of responding families supported a ban**.
- Beginning this school year, students in **grades K-8 may not bring or consume energy drinks or other high-caffeine beverages before or during the school day** (Board Policy EFA). This includes products such as Red Bull, Monster, Celsius, Alani Nu, Ghost, Bang, C4, Reign, Java Monster, and other similar drinks. Students who bring these items to school will have them confiscated, parents or guardians will be notified, and repeated violations may result in additional consequences.

2. **Locker Locks**

- All students are required to use and have a lock on their hallway locker. Students may bring their own or check one out from the office. Locks not returned at the end of the year will result in a **\$15 lost lock fee**. Free locks are available for PE lockers.

3. **Cell Phones**

- Our **Bell-to-Bell** expectation remains in place. From **8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, cell phones and other personal electronic devices must stay in student lockers. Students will receive one reminder to put their phone or other personal electronics away. Additional violations will result in the phone being confiscated until a parent or guardian picks it up.
- If you need to contact your student during the school day, please call the main office. We will make sure your message is delivered.

Schedules, Registration, Fees, and Athletics

Most student schedules are complete. Students may pick up their schedules and request changes during registration on **August 12 and August 13 from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Student Body Cards are **\$20**.

Sports fees are:

- **High School (Grades 9-12):** \$50 per sport, with a \$100 family cap
- **Middle School (Grades 7-8):** \$20, which includes a Student Body Card
- Sports fees **must be paid before the first contest**.

Free Sports Physicals will be offered by AVIVA Health at Yoncalla High on **Wednesday, August 12**, for students entering **grades 5-12**. A current sports physical is required before students may begin practice. Fall Sports start August 17 for high school and August 24 for middle school. High school schedules can be found at **OSAA.com**. Middle school schedules will be shared with families at the start of each season. If you would like to volunteer with a team, help at athletic events, have questions about fees, or eligibility, please contact our Athletic Director, **Mr. James**, at peter.james@yoncalla.k12.or.us.

Fall Sports

- MS Volleyball (Grades 5-8) – Sam Niko, samantha.niko@yoncalla.k12.or.us
- MS Football (Grades 6-8) – Darren Purcell, dsdpurcell17@yahoo.com
- MS Cross Country (Grades 5-8) – Traci Sprinkle, traci.sprinkle@yoncalla.k12.or.us
- HS Cross Country (Grades 9-12) – Eric Sprinkle, ejsprinkle73@gmail.com
- HS Volleyball (Grades 9-12) – Leighsa Swearingen, leighsa.swearingen@yoncalla.k12.or.us
- HS Football – Sadly, there are not enough students to field a team this year. Here's to hoping in 2027!

Athletic Eligibility Update

To better support the Student-Athlete mentality, Yoncalla will move to a grading period-based athletic eligibility system instead of a week-to-week system beginning this fall. If a student earns an **F** in any class or has a GPA below a 2.0 during the grading period immediately preceding the start of an activity season, or at any grade progress reporting period during the season, they must attend After School Homework Help in order to remain eligible to participate. This change will be discussed during team meetings and shared with students during each grading period.

Example: During Progress Period 1 (8/24-9/24), a student earns an **F** in a class or does not maintain a 2.0 GPA. For the remainder of Quarter 1 (9/28-10/29), the student is required to attend After School Homework Help. If the student still has an F or a GPA below 2.0 at the end of Quarter 1, they will be ineligible to participate in contests and games during Progress Period 2 (11/02-12/10).

Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 20 – Yoncalla School District Back-to-School BBQ at Yoncalla Elementary School

- Starting at 5pm, join us for food, fun, and time together as a community.

Monday, August 24 – First Day of School!

Thursday, August 27 – Senior Sunrise (Weather and Smoke permitting)

- Seniors should arrive by 6:00 a.m. with blankets and camp chairs.

Thursday, September 10 – YMS/YHS Picture Day

Wednesday, September 16 – YMS/YHS Open House

- Starts at 6pm and dinner will be provided.

Wednesday, September 23 – YMS/YHS Advisory Council Meeting

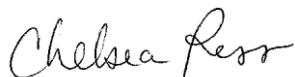
- Starts at 6pm with dinner and childcare are provided.

September 28 to October 2: Homecoming Week

- Dress-up days and activity information will be shared soon.

We are looking forward to another great school year and thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we can make this a year filled with learning, growth, and great memories.

See you soon, and welcome back, Eagles!



Chelsea Ross, Principal

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